

Nunavut Impact Review Board



Public Scoping and Impact Statement Guideline

Meetings Summary Report

for the NIRB's Review of

De Beers Canada Inc.'s

Chidliak Diamond Mine

Project Proposal

NIRB File No. 22MN025



July 2023

Full Report Title: *Public Scoping and Impact Statement Guideline Meetings Summary Report, June 3 to June 8, 2023, For the NIRB’s Review of De Beers Canada Inc.’s “Chidliak Diamond Mine” Project Proposal NIRB File No.: 22MN025*

Report prepared by: Kelli Gillard, Manager, Project Monitoring (kgillard@nirb.ca)
Leah Klaassen, Technical Advisor II (lklaassen@nirb.ca)

Photos by: NIRB Staff

Cover Photos by: Leah Klaassen

Cover Photos (left to right): Kimmirut
Pangnirtung
Iqaluit

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) would like to thank all those who participated in the Public Scoping and Impact Statement Guideline Meetings held in Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Pangnirtung as part of the NIRB's Review of De Beers Canada Inc.'s "Chidliak Diamond Mine" Project Proposal (Project Proposal). The objective of these meetings was to inform the public about the Proposal, and NIRB's process during a Review and understand if there are additional questions or items that should either be highlighted in the *draft* Scope and *draft* Impact Statement Guidelines. It was also important to hear the public's concerns, questions, or comments about the Project Proposal.

The NIRB would like to acknowledge the many Elders and community members who actively participated in the public meetings, sharing their knowledge, and raised their questions and comments about the Project Proposal and NIRB documents. Comments from communities potentially affected by the Proposed Project play a very important role in the NIRB's process and eventual final decision.

Finally, the NIRB would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the communities for the warm hospitality offered to the NIRB staff. The meetings were successful owing to the participation, assistance, and generosity of community members, leadership, and local organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Ryan Barry
Interim Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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1 INTRODUCTION

The requirements of the NIRB's Review process are defined by the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and the *NuPPAA*. As per s. 99(1)(a) and (b) of the *NuPPAA*, the first step in the Review process requires that the Board determine the **scope of the project** proposal, as well as the **scope of the assessment**.

As such, the NIRB engages potentially affected communities identified by the Board and/or the Minister(s) regarding the proposed development project and activities. This public awareness and participation are key to developing the materials the Proponent will use to develop an impact statement and public participation is important throughout the NIRB's Review process.



1.1 Objectives of the NIRB Scoping and IS Guidelines Process

The most important part of the NIRB's Impact Assessment process for either a Review or a Reconsideration is the development of public participation and awareness programs which are held locally to hear from communities. At this stage of a Review, the NIRB is looking for information on public questions or concerns about the Project Proposal (Scope of the Project¹) and the *draft* IS Guidelines. This collected feedback on the valued ecosystem components (VECs), valued socio-economic components (VSECs), and any other items the public shared is then used to finalize the Scope of the Project Proposal and the IS Guideline. All information, comments or thoughts collected by the NIRB allows the IS Guidelines to have clear direction and questions that need to be answered in the Proponent's Impact Statement to progress the proposed Chidliak Diamond Mine project to the next step of the NIRB's Review process.

¹ Comment Request for Draft Scope and Draft Impact Statement Guidelines, May 16, 2023 (Document ID 345662)

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community engagement meetings conducted in Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Pangnirtung.

Information received and pertaining to the “Chidliak Diamond Mine” Project Proposal is accessible via the NIRB’s Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125714.

1.1 Outline of the Proposed Chidliak Diamond Mine

The proposed “Chidliak Diamond Mine” project (the Project) involves constructing, operating, and decommissioning a diamond mine at the Chidliak exploration site on the Hall Peninsula of Baffin Island, Nunavut approximately 120 kilometers (km) northwest of Iqaluit and 200 km south of Pangnirtung.

De Beers proposes to use a “FutureSmart Mining” approach for the development and operation of the proposed mine, allowing for relatively small Kimberlite pipes to be mined using largely remote mining techniques and mobile camps to reduce potential environmental impacts. De Beers expects the proposed project to begin in March 2026 and for decommissioning to be completed by December 2049.

Project Components

- Mining of up to 35 Kimberlite Pipes through Open Pit and Underground mines;
 - Construction of a Waste Rock pile;
 - Construction of a mobile and modular Kimberlite processing facility (relocated as kimberlite pipes are mined);
 - Continued Bulk Sampling;
 - Continued Blasting and Drilling Programs;
- Mobile and modular Accommodations Facilities (relocated as kimberlite pipes are mined);
- Equipment use:
 - Rotary and Fixed wing aircraft for transport of equipment and personnel;
 - Use of Drills, Haul Trucks, Light Vehicles, various Loaders, and blast Equipment;
- Fuel storage:
 - Up to 24,551,600 liters of Diesel;
 - Up to 5,000 liters of Gasoline;
 - Up to 30,000 liters of Aviation Fuel
- Storage and use of Ammonium Nitrate for blasting;
- Construction of several a Quarries and Borrow Pits as needed and close to the ore bodies to reduce disturbance.
- Construction, use and decommissioning of additional site infrastructure: of an Airstrip, quarries/burrow pits;
- Decommissioning:
 - Removal of all buildings, equipment and infrastructure;
 - Revegetation of disturbed surfaces in the Project Development area;
 - Removal of any outstanding waste;
 - Non-hazardous waste materials that cannot be removed will be stored in an on-site landfill;
 - Hazardous materials will be removed from site;

- Mined Rock and Kimberlite facilities will remain in closure;
- Access to site by fixed wing aircraft, as well as potentially by All-Weather Access Road or Winter Road and associated construction, use, and decommissioning;
- Site power provided through:
 - Potential construction and use of a Transmission Line;
 - Potential installation of a small modular nuclear reactor;
 - Potential use of Diesel generators.
- Water use and withdrawal for drinking in the accommodations;
 - Up to 10,000 cubic metres per day withdrawn from Qamaniruluk Y Lake, Qamanialuk Lake, Sunrise Lake, Glacier Lake, McKeand River and other waterbodies;
- Waste Disposal
 - Organic food waste using an incinerator (200 kilograms per day);
 - Grey water (200 cubic metres per day);
 - Construction of a Landfill (Non-combustible and inert waste).

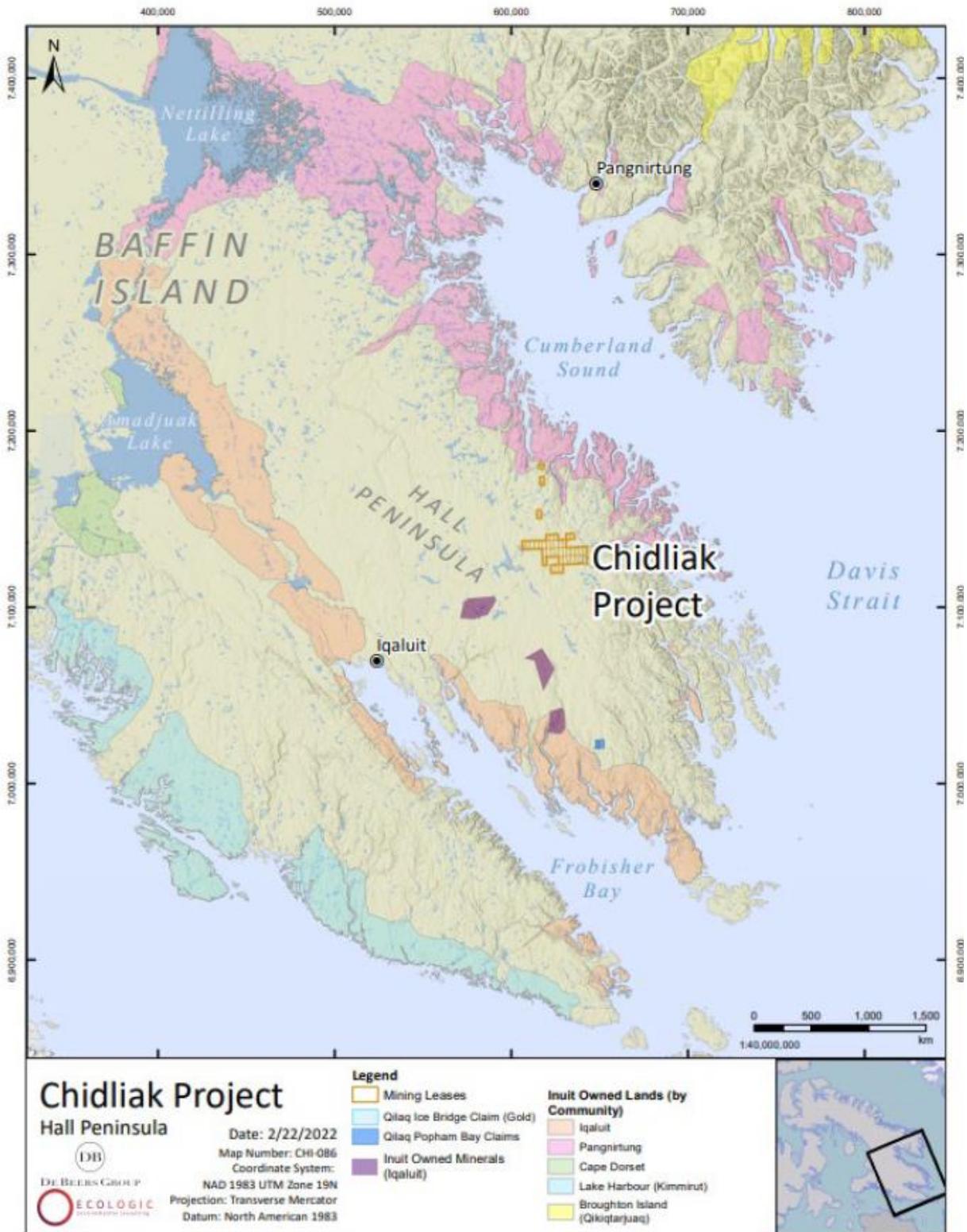


Figure 1: Project Location – Hall Peninsula²

² All figures are provided by De Beers in their Project Description (Document ID No. 341331)

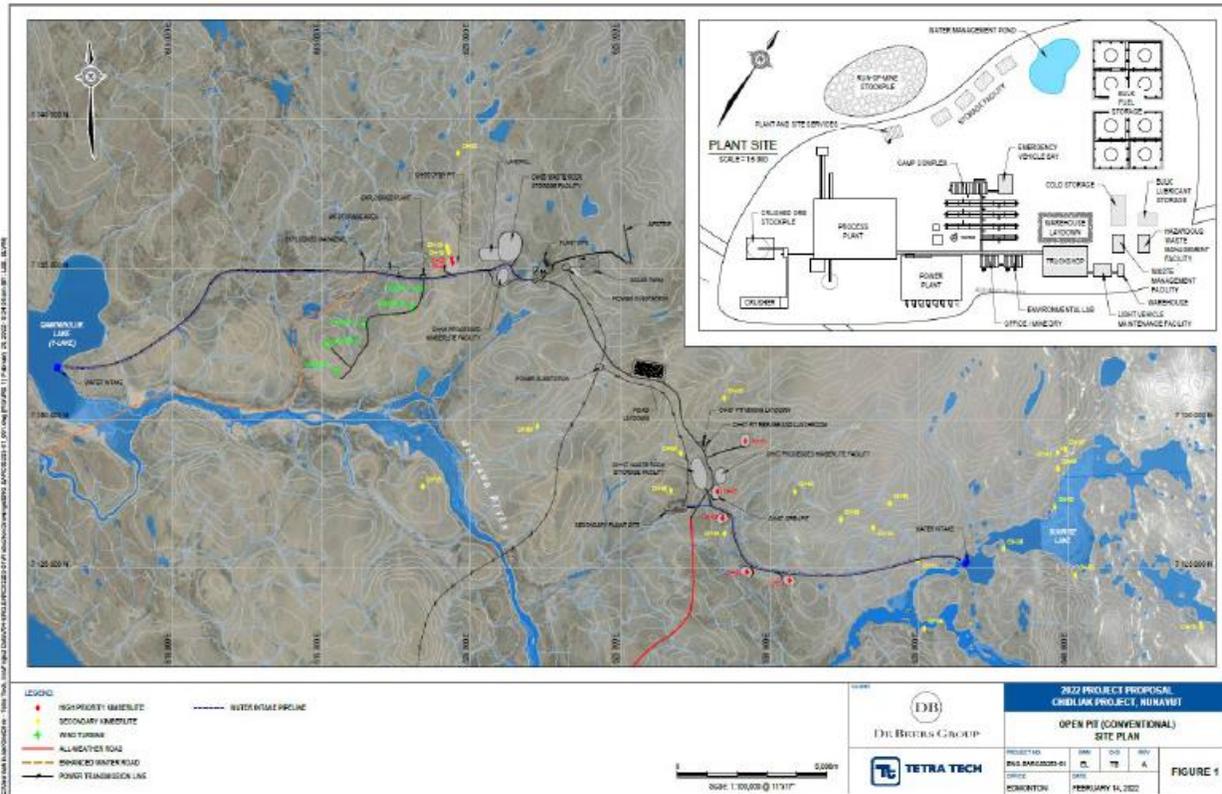


Figure 2: Conceptual Layout Project Infrastructure with the Open Pit Mining Method

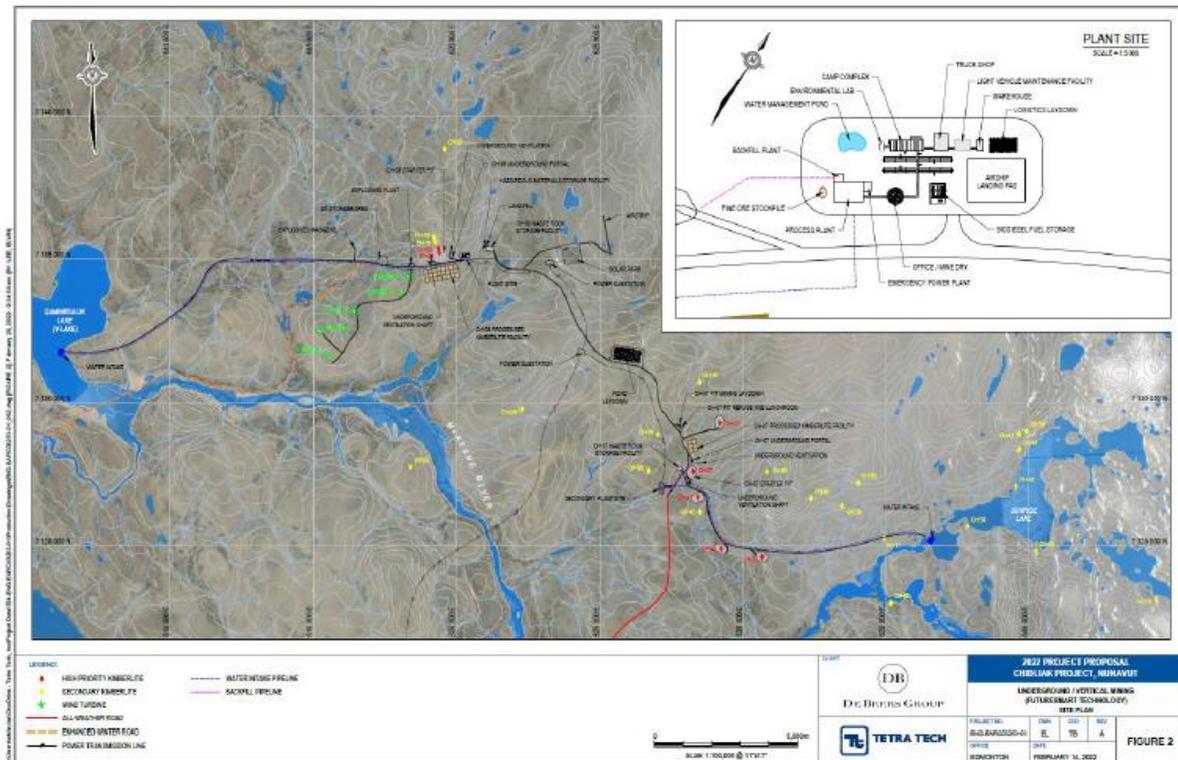


Figure 3: Conceptual Layout of Project Infrastructure Associated with the Underground/Vertical Mining Method



Figure 4: Potential All-Weather Road, Winter Trail, and Transmission Line Routes

1.2 Project History and Current Status



2 NIRB COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

2.1 Overview

The NIRB hosted community information sessions for the proposed Chidliak Diamond Mine in the communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Pangnirtung on June 3-8, 2023. Due to venue and hotel availability and flight schedules, the NIRB spent one (1) day in each community. Due to flight delays while conducting the tour, the NIRB adjusted some of its engagement sessions, information is included below about each community's meeting.

De Beers representative Sarah McLean was present at each session to assist in answering questions and talking to community members about the Project Proposal and impact statement addendum. NIRB staff were also joined by Veronica Dewar, the NIRB interpreter for the trip. Alexie Baillargeon from Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency was in attendance at each meeting.

2.2 NIRB Community Information Sessions

To facilitate a better understanding of the assessment of the “Chidliak Diamond Mine” Proposal, the NIRB gave a presentation that included:

- A discussion of the NIRB process and next steps;
- Information on the developments, activities, and key components proposed as part of the Project Proposal;
- Working with meeting attendees to identify Valued Ecosystemic Components and Valued Socio-Economic Components that should be considered in the NIRB Review;
- Working with meeting attendees to identify information requirements and issues of particular relevance to the community.

The presentation was in English with simultaneous interpretation in Inuktitut. The public was encouraged to comment and ask questions relating to the NIRB's Review process, *draft* Scope, and *draft* Impact Statement Guidelines. Both written and verbal comments were accepted and recorded by the NIRB staff.

2.3 Meeting Materials

The following materials were provided at each meeting. An electronic version can be accessed on the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125714 or by searching for the following document ID numbers. Catering was also offered to attendees.

Document	Doc ID No.
The NIRB's PowerPoint presentation	345610
<i>Draft Impact Statement Guidelines</i>	345027 (English) 345338 (French) 345661 (Inuktitut)
<i>Draft Scope</i>	345028 (English) 345337 (French) 345660 (Inuktitut)
<i>The Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada</i>	N/A
<i>The Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act</i>	N/A
Comment Forms	N/A

2.4 Agenda and Venues of Community Information Sessions

The NIRB staff consulted with community organizations and considered travel requirements in determining the timing of the Community Information Sessions. The NIRB visited each of the following communities:

Community	Venue	Date	Time
Iqaluit	Parish Hall	June 2, 2023	11 am to 1:00 pm 3:00-5:00 pm
Kimmirut	School Gym	June 6, 2023	2:00-4:00 pm 6:30-8:30 pm
Pangnirtung	School Gym	June 8, 2023	6:30-9:30 pm

2.5 Advertisements

Public notification is essential for effective public engagement and is a prerequisite of the NIRB's community information sessions. The NIRB informed the communities of the meetings through various advertisements including by radio and community Facebook Groups, where available, and posters with meeting details sent to Hamlet and Hunters and Trappers Association offices.

3 MEETING NOTES FROM THE NIRB'S COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The following is a summary of verbal and written comments discussed during each session. Comments are sorted by topic in no particular order.

3.1 Iqaluit

Attendance: 10 people during the open house and 7 people during the afternoon session

The NIRB hosted the late afternoon session from 3:00 to 5:00 pm to allow other events to occur at the venue in the evening.



Concern Category	Comments
Environmental	
Water Sources and Mapping/Figures that are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there maps of water reservoirs/intakes available? What are the names of the water resources that will be used?
Future Generations Reclamation/Remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inuit are the ones that will be left with a mess if a mess is left here.
Socio-Economics	
Inclusion of Kimmirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When NIRB adds another community to the list, they show that they are disconnected from the people in Iqaluit who are affected by the developments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why are we adding a community [Kimmirut] that was not in the equation before when we are the ones who are being impacted? ▪ How many meetings will take place in the other communities in the future? ▪ Pangnirtung and Iqaluit are the only affected communities. ▪ Including Kimmirut in the process is setting us up for something like what happened with Baffinland.
Local Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The process of transcribing your thoughts to the page (<i>i.e.</i>, comment forms) loses a lot of nuances. ▪ The NIRB review process leaves Inuit governance out ▪ When a process only focuses on studies and scientific research it eliminates our knowledge. ▪ There needs to be an Indigenous governance process, I fear that De Beers will not protect the caribou. ▪ Elders should be present at meetings. ▪ We need to see reference to Inuit knowledge in the Impact Statement.
Land Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chidliak is only on Crown Land because we gave a lot of Inuit Owned Land rights to Kivalliq and Kitikmeot instead of Qikiqtani.
Compensation/royalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will I benefit from the information I am giving here? ▪ We should have gotten royalties right away when Peregrine started exploration. ▪ These processes rely on Inuit for knowledge for no pay. ▪ We have been waiting since the 70s to receive royalties.
Archaeological sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inuksuks found on the land by archaeologists doing assessments of Chidliak area should be treated as stakes/rights to the land for Inuit.
Other	
NIRB's Impact Assessment Process/Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NIRB is using the same review process as they used with Baffinland and that turned out to be a nightmare. ▪ Just like with Mary River, NIRB is having meetings for the sake of checking boxes. ▪ If something impacts us in Iqaluit we want to talk to NIRB Board members. ▪ I was expecting NIRB board members to be here. ▪ What was supposed to be an approachable process is now convoluted and confusing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government only comes to meetings when they are being paid to be there. ▪ Where can beneficiaries speak to someone about a process before it gets to this stage of the process? ▪ We are more likely to listen to the proponent than we are to listen to NIRB about this project.
Voices not being heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The federal government must be responsible for representing us, instead the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is representing us and their staff do not have the correct knowledge.
Accessibility of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have heard about this Project Proposal for 18 years and we are still not sure who to talk to about this. We must piece together the details of this project ourselves. ▪ I can't find locations to talk to anyone about work like this, I went to 5 locations in Iqaluit and couldn't find anyone. ▪ Those of us who live here cannot access information because government offices are all locked up during the day. ▪ It's embarrassing that mining companies know more about the diamonds than we do as those who grew up there.
Translations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We often see French before we see Inuktitut. ▪ I am concerned about access to translations in Iqaluit. ▪ There are rules about providing information in Inuktitut and I cannot find Inuktitut in NIRB documents. ▪ NIRB doesn't provide French translations/interpretation, if I spoke French I wouldn't come to meetings.
Timing of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meetings should be longer than two hours, we have so much knowledge to share and it should not be time-bound. ▪ The hunters cannot come to meetings because it is Springtime. Meetings should be held October before the snowfall and freeze up because they don't go out in October. It is difficult to have meetings in the spring, June and July will have no one show up to meetings.
Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact Statement should be focused on what really matters, it should be simple and easy to understand, and proponents shouldn't put words into the process that we will not understand.

3.2 Kimmirut

Attendance: 1 person in the afternoon session and 4 people in the evening session



Concern Category	Comments
Timing of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is springtime and people are not in town (Camping, hunting). ▪ May-August is not a good time, you will get better feedback in the fall. ▪ Some hunters would've been here if it was not springtime. ▪ People would've been interested in jobs if they were able to make it to the presentation.
Advertisement of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are people who have not heard about this meeting. ▪ No one in town got any messages about the meeting. ▪ Government and Hamlet did not receive the information properly from NIRB. ▪ People forgot about the meeting since it was advertised. ▪ NIRB should promote the meetings at workplaces.

3.3 Pangnirtung

Attendance: The Afternoon session was cancelled due to flight delays, and 25 people were in attendance at the evening meeting



Concern Category	Comments
Environmental	
Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since Peregrine started drilling, when I go fishing in that area and we gut the fish and they are all white inside.
Future Generations/ Reclamation and Remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We must look out for the next generation and find a gateway for them to survive after we leave.
Accidents and Malfunctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the Inuit be contacted if there are problems with De Beers during operations?
Nuclear Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear and solar are poor sources of power generation. I am scared of nuclear reactors; we have a bad connotation with the word "nuclear." The energy options for the project look good except for the nuclear option which will not work for us.
Power Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why have you not yet chosen what power source you will be using after two years? Which way will the ship come into Iqaluit to haul the products from the mining company?
Socio-Economics	
Inclusion of Kimmirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't want our community [Pangnirtung] to go the way Pond Inlet went from Baffinland. At the beginning it was only Iqaluit and Pangnirtung listed as affected communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did Kimmirut get involved with this process? Did Kimmirut get in touch with the Proponent?
Local knowledge/Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We must feel like we are working with the mining company to take care of the wildlife.
Compensation/royalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I would like to see that Inuit get a share of the royalties directly. ▪ Would royalties be given to the NIRB or the Inuit?
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will there be job opportunities for people from Pangnirtung?
Community Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would Pangnirtung start to change their infrastructure and what kinds of changes and is there an opportunity for us to request changes such as paved roads?
Other	
NIRB Review Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NIRB is not prepared with the proper resources to answer any questions from the community. ▪ Can NIRB reject a proposal such as the energy generation options proposed by De Beers? ▪ I don't know if there will be any large impacts from this project. ▪ I don't have time to think about this right now, I need more time to do research and think before commenting.
Timing of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Inuit don't have time to consider this right now. ▪ The Inuit that are here don't have time to consider this right now, will the same subjects be on the table the next time you come?
Advertisement of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We didn't hear about this meeting until two days before. ▪ People in Pangnirtung receive their information on the radio, we cannot rely on Facebook advertisements. ▪ There are other meetings, weddings, and funerals happening right now, we should've been informed about your meeting ahead of time. ▪ When NIRB uses Facebook for advertising, they will not reach Elders.

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Throughout the NIRB's Public Scoping and Impact Statement Guideline Meetings, community members shared their comments and concerns on a variety of topics pertaining to De Beers "Chidliak Diamond Mine" Project Proposal including:

- Interest in receiving clarification on the Project Proposal: energy sources and activity details;
- Environmental comments and questions: freshwater, fish and fish habitat, and reclamation;
- Socio-economic comments and questions: Local Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimaqatungit, benefits, consultation and engagement, employment, traditional activities and land use, land tenure, and compensation/royalties; and
- Other comments and questions: the NIRB's Review process, the timing of the meetings, accessibility of information, translations, incorporation of messages heard into decision-making/documents to understand how knowledge is used, and advertisements of meetings.

As previously mentioned, these comments play an important role in the Board's work to finalize the Scope of the Project and the assessment process, as well as the Impact Statement Guidelines. The Board greatly appreciates community members taking the time to attend the meetings to share their knowledge, thoughts, and questions. The Efforts of the Hamlet and city offices are also greatly appreciated in assisting the NIRB to plan meetings to fit around community activities.

The NIRB greatly appreciates the participation of community members in the Review of the Chidliak Diamond Mind Project Proposal and encourages community members to continue to participate in the next steps of the process as there will be more opportunities to discuss the Project Proposal with the NIRB and the NIRB looks forward to engaging with each community on the next steps. The NIRB also looks forward to working with Pangnirtung to ensure that radio advertising is received by appropriate individuals and read on the radio.